Conversation with Lonnie Hudkins 5/17/75 HW

He began by talking about SP's story on the 1/22/64 transcript.

He thinks the CIA really came unglued when LHO went to the Soviet Embassy. He thinks that when they checked this they decided they had a Manchurian candidate.

One CIA agent sent in a report that he had attended a meeting in Mexico City at which LHO and others had discussed assassinating JFK. They did not realize until after the fact that it was the real thing.

Lonnie thinks the key cities are Houston and not New Orleans. I think he said Dallas but perhaps another. Yes. Mexico City.

He notes that Hoover, Dean Rusk and Nixon were guests at a Rockefeller party the night of the 21st. He says that at first Nixon claimed not to remember exactly when he left Dallas. (Lonnie says 10:30 a.m.)

Lonnie claims to know who the other man is and that the CIA and all others know. He believes LHO was an assassin.

He postulates that in the Tippit case there could have been a fake police car and that when LHO walked up to Tippit's he was surprised to find a real cop.

He also remembers Roger Craig, of whose suicide he did not know. As a playboy, running around such. Unstable. Tried suicide before JFK assassination.

Quit sheriff's office once. Decker supposed to have helped him get another start that did not work.

When I told Lonnie that the station wagon did not have Texas tags, the one that Craig reported, Lonnie said, "Louisiana." This is exactly what Craig's secret notes say.

Lonnie says Ruth Paine used Louisiana tags on her car and that it was in Houston the day before. This, of course, seems impossible because Ruth and Marina were home and LHO was there that night.

On the Dallas Morning News (Cole) story of which I spoke to him yesterday, one that has a CIA man putting anniversary flowers (1966) on LHO's grave because he was one of us, Lonnie says that AP man Morris was approximately right with a single big error: the man was a former CIA who had gone flakey. Morris said he flashed credentials when Morris caught up with him. They could have been old ones.

Lonnie says that if Gerry Hill had not been at the theater it is not unlikely that the police would have killed LHO. He says Walthers in particular could have. (He knew them all well.)

He also says that after the horn tooted LHO stood and waited for a while. I did not ask source. WC says only that he was seen waiting in bus stop.

When I told him there is evidence that Tippit was killed much earlier he brushed it aside and said he'd rather not discuss that over the phone.

He also insists there was a positive identification of one of the Tippit bullets and they are saving that for emergency use.